GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:485
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
RISE IN DISEASES DUE TO CLIMATIC CHANGE
Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar;Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether endemic morbidity and mortality caused due to diarrhoeal diseases are likely to rise due to climatic changes as per the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter Government Panel on Climate Change;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the climatic change is likely to cause flood and droughts that cause water borne and communicable diseases by which women and children will be affected;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) the details of assistance provided by private hospitals and NGOs in this regard; and

(f) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTRY OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 485 for 9.05.2007

The findings of the Fourth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are estimations of current scientific understanding of impacts of climate change on natural, managed and human systems, the capacity of these systems to adapt and their vulnerability. It sets out projected climate change related exposures likely to affect the health status of millions of people, particularly those with low adaptive capacity, through,

increases in malnutrition and consequent disorders, with implications for child growth and development.
increased deaths, diseases and injury due to heat waves, floods, storms, fires and droughts,
the increased burden of diarrhoea! diseases, primarily associated with floods and droughts.
the increased frequency of cardio-respiratory diseases due to higher concentrations of ground level ozone related to climate change, and
the altered spatial distribution of some infectious disease vectors.

A multiple strategy, which includes mitigation, adaptation, technological development and research needs to be devised to diminish the risks associated with climate change. Subtainable development can definitely reduce the vulnerability to climate change by enhancing adaptation capacity and increasing resilience.

Health is primarily a state subject and provision of medical relief for diseases like diarrohea and other communicable diseases through primary and community health centres is looked after by the State Governments. For addressing Public health emergencies, National Disaster Management Authority has been established and all stakeholders including the private hospitals/NGOs are called upon to provide medical relief/ rehabilitation during medical emergencies. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene are some of th; causes of diarrohea. The state-wise cases due to water-borne diseases and vaccine preventable diseases during 2005 and 2006 is annexed.

The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc. Under National Rural Health Mission, services of Health, Drinking Water, Nutrition and Sanitation are integrated to provide effective services at grass root level.

The Government to India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/ Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD) provides technical support to the State

Governments and undertake surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases including diarrohea.

An integrated approach has been initiated with Department of Drinking Water Supply to provide the technical support to monitor the quality of drinking water in different States so as to prevent occurrence of water borne diseases. A contingency plan to combat droughts and floods has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and has been circulated to all States.

The Government of India has launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in November, 2004, to further strengthen identification of outbreaks of various diseases including diarrohea so that early intervention could be made and occurrence, disability and death due to such diseases could be reduced.